

reminds us of the moon, its greater size being due partly to our nearness, and partly to its being really larger. We were unable to trace the outlines of the seas and continents, as we had expected. The atmosphere, which surrounds it like a shell, contains a large quantity of water vapour, and this vapour, in the form of clouds, veils the greater part of the earth's surface. The moon does not seem to have any atmosphere around it, and thus there are no clouds to hide from us its hills and valleys.

What we have been able to see, therefore, is not so much the *surface* of the earth as its *movements*. We saw it spinning round like a top, every part of its surface coming into the light of day on one side and passing back into twilight and darkness on the other. When we are standing on the solid earth it is very hard indeed to realize that we are being whirled round in this way. We are more apt to think that the earth is fixed in one position, and that the sun and the stars and all that we call the sky are moving round about us.

From our distant position we were able to see the earth moving in another way. By watching the stars which sparkled near it in the sky we could see that it was travelling past them in a wide circle round the sun. And then, owing to the constant slope of the earth's axis, we saw that during our summer time the north pole is turned towards the sun, while six months later the south pole is turned towards it.

All this we have seen from our imaginary sphere, suspended between sun and earth. If we wish to learn about the surface of the earth and the peoples who live on it, we must occupy a more lowly position. We must act as real dwellers on the earth, and not as mere visitors. We must be content to see the dark side of the clouds as well as their silver lining. We shall thus gain a better knowledge of the earth as the home of men, and of men themselves as our kinsfolk and friends.

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